

Remarks

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 21, 2006, Applicants respectfully **provisionally elect** Species B as illustrated in Figure 7 and its corresponding claims to be prosecuted by way of the present application. That is, Applicants provisionally elect Species B and claims 1 – 11, 13 – 18, 20 – 28, 30 – 36 and 38 for prosecution in the present application.

This election is made **with traverse**. Applicants specifically reserve the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application. Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is in error because Species B, C and D each fall within the limitations of independent claims 1, 16, 17, 18, 21, 31, 32 and 33. Species A (Figure 6) is claimed in co-pending application 10/657,386.

Additionally, these three species as identified in the Restriction Requirement are close enough in relation to each other that they would not require a search that would be unduly extensive or burdensome; the search for each would encompass the same class/subclass classifications. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that restriction requirement with regard to Species B, C and D should be removed.

Claims 12, 19, 29 and 37 have been withdrawn as they are specific species claims related to provisionally unelected Species D as illustrated in Figure 11. However, as discussed above, Species D falls within the limitations of the independent claims (Claims 1, 18, 21 and 33) which the withdrawn claims 12, 19, 29 and 37 are dependent therefrom. Subsequently, Applicant requests Claims 12, 19, 29 and 37 be **rejoined** with Claims 1 – 11, 13 – 18, 20 – 28, 30 – 36 and 38 upon withdrawal of the present restriction request or upon finding allowable subject matter in Claims 1 – 11, 13 – 18, 20 – 28, 30 – 36 and 38, in accordance with MPEP §821.04

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I, Nathan P. Hendon, hereby certify that on May 18, 2006 the aforementioned documents are being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via electronic submission to the USPTO's Patent Electronic Filing System EFS-Web.

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